

F.P. 2/14/77

KKK leader to plead guilty

WESTMINSTER (AP)—The alleged leader of a Ku Klux Klan terrorist group will plead guilty to several charges of possessing and manufacturing explosives without a license, according to court papers.

William M. Aitcheson, 23, made known his plans in a motion approved by Judge James Macgill in Carroll County Circuit Court Tuesday.

The judge approved Aitcheson's motion to transfer a pending Carroll County charge of possessing an explosive device without a license to Howard County Circuit Court.

The motion says the former communications major at the University of Maryland will plead guilty to the Carroll County charge and to "some of the charges" pending in Howard County. Those charges include manufacturing and possessing ex-

plosives without a license and illegal possession of firearms.

A new state law allows defendants with charges pending in several counties to have their trial consolidated in one jurisdiction.

Aitcheson, previously known as the exalted cyclops of the Robert E. Lee Lodge of the Maryland Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, was arrested at his parents' Clarksville home March 2.

He has already pleaded guilty to federal charges of sending a threatening letter to Coretta Scott King, the widow of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Aitcheson is still awaiting sentencing on those charges.

Aitcheson also faces charges in Prince Georges County in connection with six cross burnings and the threatening letter sent to Mrs. King.